Jane Street - 27 April 1850.

My dear Gray - I thank you for your note of the 23d & especially for all the expressions of kindness which it contains - I regret extremely your indisposition, at this moment, when you have so much to do, but hope it will not be of long continuance. I am sorry that I did not see you on your return from Washington, as we had really no previous opportunity for Conversation - Your pencil memm. on the parcel of Dr. Wood. did not meet my eye until I returned home, from my dinner, at 3 o'clk. - Of course for too late to admit of my seeing you - I had made up my mind that you would be in N.Y. on the precise day on which you passed thro' - & made it my first job, after breakfast, to seal up the small package of sundries I have had by me, for you - What shall I now do with the parcel? Send it.

Tho' I obey your injunction as to writing, I am unable to advise any "contemplated movements" - At present, all is doubt & uncertainty with me - You know the general outline of my feelings - but, as yet, I have had no courage to resolve on the plans or details - When I do so, it must be unadvised, & in secret - For none would advise me with counsel in the matter; nor, in fact, need I ask any - A desperate step is always better taken on the sole responsibility of the party concerned - You remark,

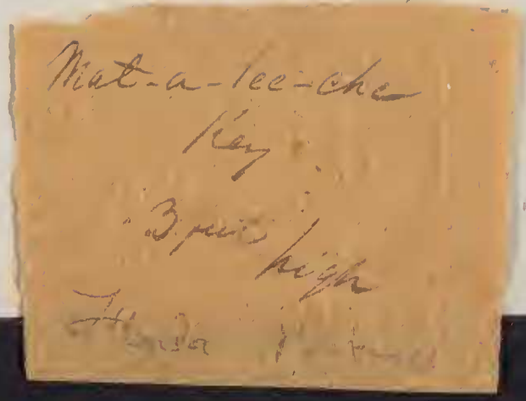
that if my "good daughter cannot marry one you know not how you can". The fact is, that the dear girl has not the remotest idea in her head, that I meditate a removal; & I am now sorry that I intimated any such design to E. Torrey, as I care not to have it a matter of gossip amongst the few who know me - My son told me, before his marriage, that Alida had expressed a wish that I should live with them - adding that it was no suggestion of his own, even in the shape of a hint - But so far as I am personally concerned, the Project has never been broached in any of my conversations with her - Thus much, & it is literally all I can say, on this painful topic - For the rest, - sufficient is the day unto the evil thereof.

I believe Harney sails to day - I called upon him last week, but he was up the river - Yesterday I wrote him my farewell, as I could not go down town to see him - I thank you much for remembering me in the matter of D.C. but I observe, by the name on it, that one of them belonged to poor Oakes, & you of course bought it, & I must insist on reimbursing you the cost - Pray therefore let me know the amount - like a good man as you are - If I should complete my set, I may probably have to sell them, by & bye, so you must not hesitate in the matter. I suppose you did not get Aberts' 1st report?

Yesterday, I dined in company with Mr. John J. Astor (Alida's eldest brother) who sails for Europe in 10 days - I heard him asking a Gent.n at table whether he could get him one or two good letters to Mr. Lawrence, as he did not care to have merely official civilities - He did not address me on the subject, but if you know Mr. Lawrence well yourself, or if any of your countrymen could give letters to him which he would esteem of weight - I should be much pleased if you would enclose them to me, within the course of next week. Mr. J. J. A. has resided for years in Europe - in England & on the Continent, & probably would not need any courtesies - but as he knew well the former minister, he naturally prefers taking letters to Mr.d Lawrence, if he can get good ones - as he wants present no others. Apart from his position here - as his father's son - Mr. A. is a perfect gentleman, in all things, & would do credit to his introductions - Give yourself no trouble about this matter, but, if it falls in your way, it will gratify me to show Mr. Astor this marked attention. I have written to Mr. Thos. J. Cary, preferring the same request -

This is all, My dear Gray, I believe - I have no news - no botany - for now, being about as dull & dumpy as a clod of the Valley - but such as I am - Very truly & affy Yrs. C.

I cannot read your pencil name of the Collector on this Ticket - Tell me who he is - If you can read it yourself ??



Prof. Agassiz
Cambridge
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